

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were examined in the Non-Final Office Action mailed on 11/13/2008 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). Applicants note with appreciation that claims 5, 6, 12, 13 and 18 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The remaining claims 1-4 and 7-11 and 14-20 were rejected. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12-14 and 17-20 were objected to.

By virtue of this paper, claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 14, 17, 19 and 20 are sought to be amended and claims 5, 12 and 18 are sought to be cancelled. The amendments and cancellations are believed not to introduce new matter and their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 12-17 and 19-20 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration further in view of the below remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 14 have been objected to, noting that "target property" is to be replaced by "target properties". Each of claims 1 and 14 is sought to be amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objections with respect to claims 1 and 14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 12 and 18 have been objected to, noting that the term "control flow rates" would be better if written as "control the flow rates". Claims 5, 12 and 18 are sought to be cancelled and accordingly the objects are rendered moot.

Claim 8 has been objected to, noting that "carrying" is to be replaced by "storing" and "plurality of properties" is to be replaced by "plurality of target properties". Claim 8 is sought to be amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objections with respect to claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 19 have been objected to, noting that "plurality of properties" is to be replaced by "plurality of target properties". Each of claims 14 and 19 is sought to be amended accordingly. Further, claim 19 has been objected to because the period at the end of the claim was missing and the claim is sought to be amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objections with respect to claims 14 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 has been objected to, noting that “control” is to be replaced by “controls”. The claim 17 is sought to be amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objections with respect to claim 17 is respectfully requested.

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Claim 20 has been objected to, noting that “is also is used” is to be replaced by “is also used”. The claim 20 is sought to be amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection with respect to claim 20 is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to recite the limitation “said digital processing system” and that there was insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation.

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Claim 17 is sought to be amended to replace “said digital processing system” with “said blend controller”. Withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 17 is respectfully requested.

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By virtue of this paper, claim 18 is sought to be cancelled, and accordingly the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C § 112 second paragraph is rendered moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

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Claims 1-4, 7-11, 14-17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leonard *et al* U.S. Patent No. 3,826,904 (hereinafter Leonard) in view of Navani U.S. Patent No. 7,448,046 (hereinafter Navani). The rejections are rendered moot in view of the foregoing amendments, as explained below.

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Independent claim 1 is sought to be amended to include at substantially the elements of previously allowed claim 5, and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7 and 19 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 1.

Independent claim 8 is sought to be amended to include at least substantially the elements of previously allowed claim 12, and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 9-11, 13 and 20 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 8.

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Independent claim 14 is sought to be amended to include at least substantially the elements of previously allowed claim 18, and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 15-17 and 20 are allowable at least as depending from allowable base claim 14.

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Conclusion

Thus, all the objections and rejections are believed to be overcome and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

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Respectfully submitted,
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